



Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony on
Senate Bill 64 An Act Concerning Notice to Patients of the Cost to Copy or Transfer
Medical Records
Public Health Committee
February 20, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the almost 7,000 physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in opposition to Senate Bill 64 An Act Concerning Notice to Patients of the Cost to Copy or Transfer Medical Records.

Section 20-7c of the Connecticut General Statutes currently provides comprehensive guidelines regarding access to medical records, included concise limitation of on the costs to reproduce and provide copies of such records. Section 20-7c specifically limits charges to sixty five cents per page and no more than the cost of materials for furnishing an x-ray. We support the content of Section 20-7c and offer that not only to patients have a right to their medical records, but have continued to promote that more patients should take ownership of the records as well as their medical care.

With such specific language in statute, we do not understand the statement of purpose of the bill to prevent patients from incurring hidden charges for the necessary transfer of medical records. Should proponents of the legislation be aware of situations to which current statute is not being adhered, we welcome the opportunity identify and address those concerns.

Additionally, in a time when this Committee and others have continued to work with CSMS and other organizations to identify ways in which we can reduce the administrative costs of providing health care we fear that this proposed bill will add another unnecessary administrative burden on already over taxed physician offices. We also offer that situations in which we may encounter a deviation from the requirements of the statute, it is simply a matter of provider education that can rectify the error.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today.